

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 is rejected. Claims 2-5 are objected to but would be allowable if placed into independent form. Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate that limitations of allowable claim 2, and claim 5 has been placed into independent form, in order to secure their allowance. Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by CN 1336708. This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that the Examiner refers to JP 1336708, but in fact the cited reference identified in an IDS filed by the Applicant as a result of a Chinese Office Action is CN 1336708. The corresponding priority application JP 2000-23491 was published as **JP 2002-051414**.

The present invention concerns hybrid gas-insulated switchgear that is formed by a series of modules. Each module comprises a housing in the form of a single tank. Inside the single tank are a circuit breaker, disconnecting switches and grounding switches. The interior of the single tank is segregated into gas compartments.

In particular, with reference to one exemplary embodiment but without limitation thereto, the present invention arranges a plurality of modules TB2, TB11, TB12, each having a tank 20, 20A, 20B that is sealed with an electrically insulating gas and containing a circuit breaker 21 that is aligned with the axial direction of the tank, disconnecting switches 22, 23 at first and second ends of the circuit breaker inside the tank, and grounding switches 25. The hybrid gas-insulated switch gear connects the plurality of modules in a single row such that the central axis of the tanks is generally aligned and the plurality of modules are electrically connected to each other to constitute a single-line diagram unit.

The in-line arrangement of a plurality of modules that share the general structure of a gas cylinder having the circuit breaker, disconnect switches and grounding switches all within a gas-

tight cylinder provides significant advantages over the conventional designs for such switches. In particular, the conventional circuit breaker system, as illustrated in Figs. 13A and 13B, present a problem with respect to size and cost, as explained at page 2 of the present specification.

Claim 1 defines the invention as being a switch gear having a plurality of modules, each module comprising a cylindrical tank, circuit breaker disposed inside the tank, disconnecting switches disposed at opposite ends of the circuit breaker inside the tank, grounding switches electrically connected between the circuit breaker and disconnecting switches (and necessarily inside the tank). The claim specifies that the plurality of modules are arranged in a single row such that the central axes of the tanks are substantially aligned and the modules are electrically connected to each other. The claim has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 and now further states that “at least one pair of adjacent modules among said plurality of modules is arranged so as to be separately by a distance equivalent to a length of one of said modules.”

CN 1336708

The Examiner looks to **CN 1336708** for a hybrid gas-insulated switch gear that comprises “a plurality of modules” and asserts that they are provided with a sealed cylindrical or tubular tank 80 disposed such that an axial direction thereof is substantially horizontal, circuit breaker 20 inside tank 80, disconnection switches 30a, 30b and grounding switches 40a, 40b. The Examiner asserts that the abstract and specification at pages 6 and 7 teach that there are plural modules electrically connected to one another in a single-line row such that central axis or the tanks are substantially aligned.

The reference was cited by the Applicant and a copy of the Chinese language document was supplied, but no translation of the reference was provided. Only a comment (translated into English) from the Chinese Patent Examiner with reference to teachings in the abstract and at pages 6 and 7 were identified. The US Examiner refers to these same portions of the text in framing the rejection.

Applicant has obtained a copy of **JP 2002-051414** and a machine translation of the document from the JPO website. Applicant notes that the translation does not teach that a plurality of modules are disclosed, wherein at least one pair of adjacent modules is arranged so as to be separated by a distance equivalent to a length of one of the modules.

First, in the figures, it appears that only a single module is taught, as is clear from the illustrations in Figs. 1-3 of the reference. There is no illustration of a connecting panel, or any other indication that several modules may be coupled together in a line with a particular spacing, or the manner in which they may be coupled.

Second, the Abstract, which is reproduced below, does not make reference to plural modules and a manner of connecting such modules, but merely refers to disconnectors that are connected in series:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a small, low-cost composite gas insulated switchgear having a simple structure.
SOLUTION: A breaking part 20, disconnectors 30a, 30b and grounding switches 40a, 40b are contained inside a grounding container 80. The breaking part 20 is structured to be drivable by an operating mechanism 27 via an operating rod, a conversion lever 25 and a movable side rod 26. The disconnectors 30a, 30b are connected in series at both sides of the breaker 20. The disconnectors are structured to be drivable by an operating mechanism 33 via an operating rod and supported and fixed by cylindrical insulating materials 60a, 60b mounted on the grounding container. Porcelain tubes of bushings 1a, 1b are fixed on the end parts of the upper right and left branch parts of the grounding container 80.

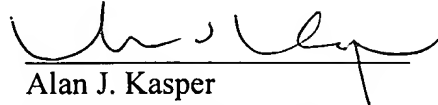
Third, with respect to the text at pages 6 and 7, it does not appear that multiple modules are taught wherein at least one pair of adjacent modules among said plurality of modules is arranged so as to be separated by a distance equivalent to a length of one of said modules, as now set forth in claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/632,827

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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